

Arkansas

Catfish Processing



Arkansas
Field Office

Released: August 22, 2006

U. S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211-3543
(501) 228-9926
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ar>

Released August 21, 2006, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on Catfish Processing call Fleming Gibson at 202-690-3237, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Catfish Processing Down 4 Percent from Last Year

Farm-raised catfish processed during July 2006 totaled 45.6 million pounds round weight, down 4 percent from July 2005. The average price paid to producers was 81.2 cents per pound for July 2006, up 0.5 cents from last month and 8.9 cents above a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during July 2006 totaled 22.1 million pounds, down 7 percent from the comparable month in 2005. The total end of the month inventory increased 17 percent from last month, but was down 33 percent from a year ago. Sales of fresh fish, at 7.86 million pounds, were down 8 percent from July 2005 and represented 36 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 14.2 million pounds, were down 7 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 64 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 17 percent of the total fish sold, fillets accounted for 62 percent, and the remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

The July 2006 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was \$2.53 per pound, an increase of 23 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were \$1.72 per pound, up 14 cents from last year. Prices for fresh fillets were up 34 cents at \$3.18 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged \$2.60 per pound, up 33 cents from July 2005. Prices for frozen whole fish were up 24 cents at \$2.24 and frozen fillets at \$3.01 per pound were up 31 cents from a year ago.

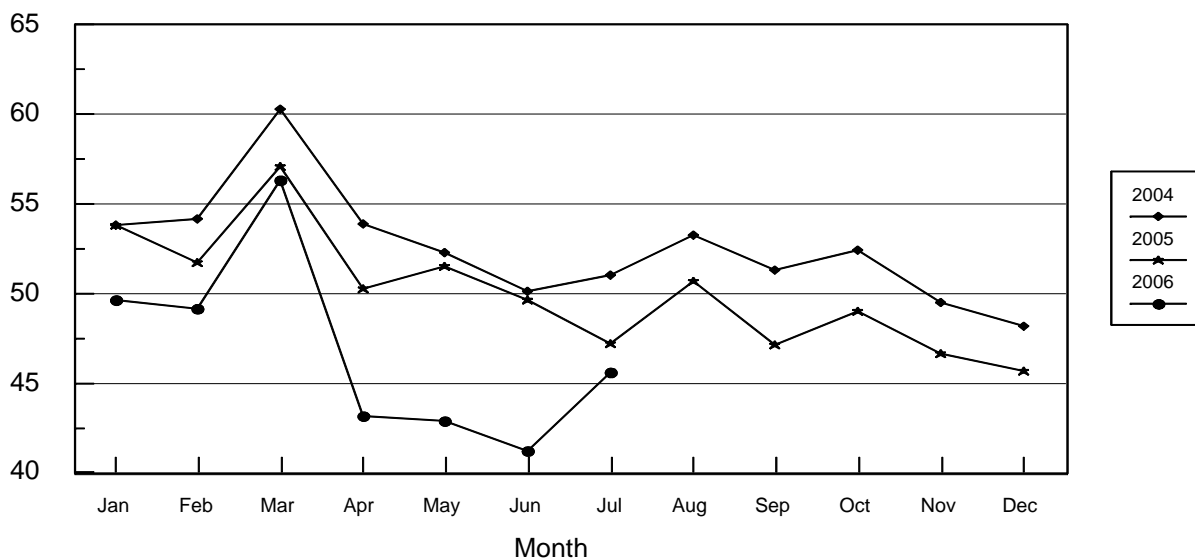
Freshwater imports of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other catfish of the order Siluriformes for June 2006 totaled 4.42 million pounds, up 74 percent from the amount imported last year. Imports were from Cambodia, China, China-Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam. The *Ictalurus* spp. imports totaled 909 thousand pounds, which were all from China.

Exports of frozen, boneless catfish fillets reported for June 2006 totaled 12.5 thousand pounds, of which 7.1 thousand pounds went to Canada and the rest to Argentina and Japan. Fresh fillet exports totaled 49.7 thousand pounds, with 34.3 thousand pounds going to Canada and the rest to Equatorial Guinea, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Import and export data are compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

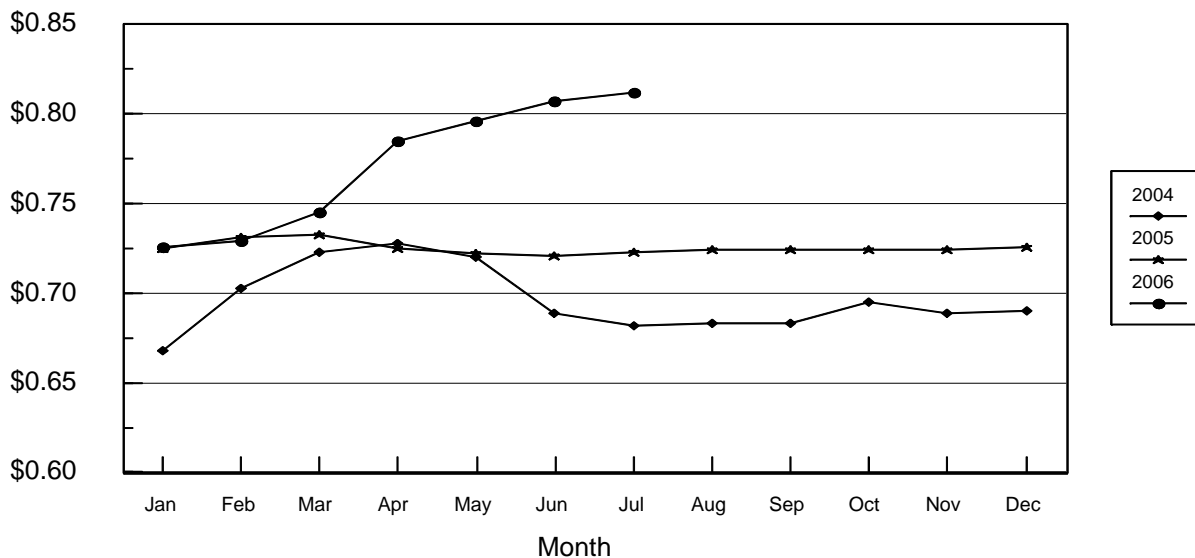
Catfish Processed United States 2004-2006

Million Pounds



Average Grower Price United States 2004-2006

Price per Pound



**Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed by Major Processors,
United States, 2005-2006**

Month	Round Weight Processed					
	Monthly			Cumulative		
	2005	2006	Percent of 2005	2005	2006	Percent of 2005
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	53,856	49,666	92	53,856	49,666	92
Feb	51,720	49,145	95	105,576	98,811	94
Mar	57,117	56,315	99	162,693	155,126	95
Apr	50,306	43,185	86	212,999	198,311	93
May	51,552	42,865	83	264,551	241,176	91
Jun	49,626	41,214	83	314,177	282,390	90
Jul	47,241	45,582	96	361,418	327,972	91
Aug	50,686			412,104		
Sep	47,151			459,255		
Oct	49,034			508,289		
Nov	46,674			554,963		
Dec	45,707			600,670		

**Farm-Raised Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors
and Imports, United States, 2005-2006**

Month	Price per Pound ¹			Imports ²		
	2005	2006	Change from 2005	2005	2006	Percent of 2005
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	0.725	0.726	0.001	1,383	2,644	191
Feb	0.731	0.729	-0.002	1,230	2,491	203
Mar	0.733	0.745	0.012	1,161	3,267	281
Apr	0.725	0.785	0.060	2,198	3,119	142
May	0.722	0.796	0.074	2,695	3,306	123
Jun	0.721	0.807	0.086	2,538	4,424	174
Jul	0.723	0.812	0.089	2,048		
Aug	0.724			2,684		
Sep	0.724			2,219		
Oct	0.724			4,062		
Nov	0.724			4,648		
Dec	0.726			3,239		

¹ Price for fish delivered to the processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Includes freshwater imports of *Ictalurus* spp., *Pangasius* spp., and other catfish of the order Siluriformes. Data furnished by the S. Census Bureau.

**Catfish Processors: Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending
Inventory, United States, July 2005-2006**

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	1,282	1,391	1.20	1.28	*	*
Whole Dressed	1,404	1,325	1.86	2.09	*	*
Total	2,686	2,716	1.58	1.72	146	173
Other						
Steaks	95	77	2.14	2.41	*	*
Nuggets	779	612	1.28	1.38	103	165
Other ¹	223	174	3.06	3.31	*	*
Total	1,097	863	1.72	1.86	117	177
Fillets ²	4,714	4,279	2.84	3.18	482	581
Total Fresh	8,497	7,858	2.30	2.53	745	931
Frozen Fish						
Whole Dressed	1,021	954	2.00	2.24	739	716
Other						
Steaks	106	77	2.02	2.29	104	40
Nuggets	3,048	2,366	0.89	1.02	2,351	2,296
Other ¹	1,494	1,357	2.55	2.78	909	737
Total	4,648	3,800	1.45	1.67	3,364	3,073
Fillets ²	9,563	9,471	2.70	3.01	8,019	3,849
Total Frozen	15,232	14,225	2.27	2.60	12,122	7,638
Fresh & Frozen Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	1,282	1,391	1.20	1.28	*	*
Whole Dressed	2,425	2,279	1.92	2.15	*	*
Total	3,707	3,670	1.70	1.85	885	889
Other						
Steaks	201	154	2.08	2.35	*	*
Nuggets	3,827	2,978	0.97	1.09	2,454	2,461
Other ¹	1,717	1,531	2.62	2.84	*	*
Total	5,745	4,663	1.50	1.71	3,481	3,250
Fillets ²	14,277	13,750	2.75	3.06	8,501	4,430
Total Fresh & Frozen	23,729	22,083	2.28	2.58	12,867	8,569

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

¹ Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

² Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

Reliability of Catfish Processing Estimates

Survey Procedures: Survey data for catfish processing are collected from approximately 20 processors. All participating processors must meet the minimum criteria of having a capacity to process at least 2,000 pounds live weight of catfish per 8-hour shift. The survey is conducted entirely by NASS Headquarter's staff in Washington, D.C.. However, NASS field offices are responsible for informing Headquarters of any new processing operations in their state to ensure a complete survey. Processors are contacted either by mail or telephone. Diligent effort is made to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimate.

Estimation Procedures: The "**Catfish Processing**" report refers strictly to farm-raised fish and excludes wild capture fish. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared with the previous month's reports for comparable placement of data, reasonable price levels, and a reasonable inventory carryover given the sales and processing totals reported. Estimates are made for those processors whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. These plants are identified by an asterisk on page 6 of this release. Estimates are normally based on the processor's previous report and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data. Price items are weighted by the associated volumes to compute weighted average prices. The published price for total whole fish, however, reflects an adjustment to the round and gutted only price to bring it to an equivalent dressed weight price.

If a plant uses a fiscal accounting system, a proration is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis. Only national level estimates are published due to the limited number of plants involved.

One unique feature of the "**Catfish Processing**" report is the listing of cooperating processors by name on each month's release. This feature originally was used to solicit industry cooperation in maintaining coverage, but it has continued because of the processors' overall acceptance of this policy.

Import and export data for catfish, which are compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, are also included in this report.

Reliability: Catfish Processing estimates are based on a census of all known active processors and, therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions may be necessary following a review of late reports received from plants. Revisions of less than 2 percent of the existing published levels of any category will normally not be made.